# As Passed by the Senate

**135th General Assembly** 

Regular Session 2023-2024

Am. Sub. S. B. No. 117

Senators Cirino, McColley

Cosponsors: Senators Brenner, Gavarone, Huffman, S., Johnson, O'Brien, Schaffer, Wilkin

# A BILL

То	enact sections 3335.39, 3339.06, 3344.07,	1
	3361.06, and 3364.07 of the Revised Code to	2
	establish the Salmon P. Chase Center for Civics,	3
	Culture, and Society at the Ohio State	4
	University, to establish the Institute of	5
	American Constitutional Thought and Leadership	6
	at the University of Toledo, to establish	7
	similar centers at the University of Cincinnati,	8
	Miami University, and Cleveland State	9
	University, and to make an appropriation.	10

## BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 3335.39, 3339.06, 3344.07,	11
3361.06, and 3364.07 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as	12
follows:	13
Sec. 3335.39. (A)(1) The Salmon P. Chase center for	14
civics, culture, and society is established as an independent	15
academic unit within the Ohio state university, physically	16
located in the college of public affairs. The center shall	17
conduct teaching and research in the historical ideas,	18

traditions, and texts that have shaped the American	19
constitutional order and society.	20
(2) The center shall establish bylaws requiring the center	21
to do all of the following:	22
(a) Educate students by means of free, open, and rigorous	23
intellectual inquiry to seek the truth;	24
(b) Affirm its duty to equip students with the skills,	25
habits, and dispositions of mind they need to reach their own	26
informed conclusions on matters of social and political	27
importance;	28
(c) Affirm the value of intellectual diversity in higher	29
education and aspire to enhance the intellectual diversity of	30
the university;	31
(d) Affirm a commitment to create a community dedicated to	32
an ethic of civil and free inquiry, which respects the	33
intellectual freedom of each member, supports individual	34
capacities for growth, and welcomes the differences of opinion	35
that shall naturally exist in a public university community.	36
The requirements prescribed under divisions (A)(2)(a) to	37
(d) of this section shall take priority over any other bylaws	38
adopted by the center.	39
(3) The board of trustees of the university may change the	40
name of the center in accordance with the philanthropic naming	41
policies and practices of the university.	42
(B) The center shall be an independent academic unit	43
physically located at the college of public affairs with the	44
authority to house tenure-track faculty who hold their	45
appointments within the center. Faculty appointed to the center	46

shall not be required, but may, hold joint appointments within	47
any other division of the university. Not fewer than fifteen	48
tenure-track faculty positions shall be allotted to teach under	49
the center. No faculty outside of the center shall have the	50
authority to block faculty hires into the center.	51
(C)(1) The center shall offer instruction in all of the	52
following:	53
(a) The books and major debates which form the	54
intellectual foundation of free societies, especially that of	55
the United States;	56
(b) The principles, ideals, and institutions of the	57
American constitutional order;	58
(c) The foundations of responsible leadership and informed	59
<u>citizenship.</u>	60
(2) The center also shall focus on both of the following:	61
(a) Offering university-wide programming related to the	62
values of free speech and civil discourse;	63
(b) Expanding the intellectual diversity of the	64
university's academic community.	65
(D)(1) Not later than November 20, 2023, the board of	66
trustees of the university shall appoint, with the advice and	67
consent of the senate, a seven-member Chase center academic	68
council. An initial member shall not begin service until	69
confirmed by the senate. Four members shall form a quorum.	70
(2) The academic council shall be comprised of scholars	71
with relevant expertise and experience. Not more than one member	72
of the council may be an employee of the university. Best	73
efforts shall be made to have not fewer than three members of	74

#### the advisory board be from Ohio.

(3) Three members of the academic council shall serve	76
initial terms of two years and four members shall serve initial	77
terms of four years, which the members shall determine at their	78
first meeting, and select replacements for vacant seats.	79

(E) (1) The academic council established under division (D) 80 of this section shall conduct a nationwide search for candidates 81 for the director of the center and shall strictly adhere to all 82 relevant state and federal laws. The academic council shall 83 submit to the president of the university a list of finalists 84 from which the president shall select and appoint a director, 85 subject to approval by the board of trustees. Future directors 86 shall be chosen in the same manner. 87

(2) The director shall have the protection of tenure or tenure eligibility. The director shall consult with the dean of the college of public affairs; however, the director shall report directly to the provost or the president of the university.

(3) The director shall have the sole and exclusive 93 authority to manage the recruitment and hiring process and to 94 extend offers for employment for all faculty and staff, and to 95 terminate employment of all staff. The director shall oversee, 96 develop, and approve the center's curriculum. The center shall 97 be granted the authority to offer courses and develop 98 certificate, minor, and major programs as well as graduate 99 programs, and offer degrees. 100

(F) The director of the center shall submit an annual101report to the board of trustees of the university and the102general assembly in accordance with section 101.68 of the103

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Revised Code. The report shall provide a full account of the	104
center's achievements, opportunities, challenges, and obstacles	105
in the development of this academic unit.	106
Sec. 3339.06. (A)(1) The Miami university center for	107
civics, culture, and society is established as an independent	108
academic unit within Miami university, physically located in the	109
college of arts and sciences. The center shall conduct teaching	110
and research in the historical ideas, traditions, and texts that	111
have shaped the American constitutional order and society.	112
(2) The center shall establish bylaws requiring the center	113
to do all of the following:	114
(a) Educate students by means of free, open, and rigorous	115
intellectual inquiry to seek the truth;	116
(b) Affirm its duty to equip students with the skills,	117
habits, and dispositions of mind they need to reach their own	118
informed conclusions on matters of social and political	119
<pre>importance;</pre>	120
(c) Affirm the value of intellectual diversity in higher	121
education and aspire to enhance the intellectual diversity of	122
the university;	123
(d) Affirm a commitment to create a community dedicated to	124
an ethic of civil and free inquiry, which respects the	125
intellectual freedom of each member, supports individual	126
capacities for growth, and welcomes the differences of opinion	127
that shall naturally exist in a public university community.	128
The requirements prescribed under divisions (A)(2)(a) to	129
(d) of this section shall take priority over any other bylaws	130
adopted by the center.	131

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(3) The board of trustees of the university may name the	132
center in accordance with the philanthropic naming policies and	133
practices of the university.	134
(B) The center shall be an independent academic unit	135
physically located at the college of arts and sciences with the	136
authority to house tenure-track faculty who hold their	137
appointments within the center. Faculty appointed to the center	138
shall not be required, but may, hold joint appointments within	139
any other division of the university. Not fewer than ten tenure-	140
track faculty positions shall be allotted to teach under the	141
center. No faculty outside of the center shall have the	142
authority to block faculty hires into the center.	143
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(C) (1) The center shall offer instruction in all of the	144
following:	145
(a) The books and major debates which form the	146
intellectual foundation of free societies, especially that of	147
the United States;	148
(b) The principles, ideals, and institutions of the	149
American constitutional order;	150
(c) The foundations of responsible leadership and informed	151
<u>citizenship.</u>	152
(2) The center also shall focus on both of the following:	153
(a) Offering university-wide programming related to the	154
values of free speech and civil discourse;	155
(b) Expanding the intellectual diversity of the	156
university's academic community.	157
(D)(1) Not later than December 31, 2023, the board of	158
trustees of the university shall appoint, with the advice and	159

concept of the constance equipaid	160
consent of the senate, a seven-member center academic council.	
An initial member shall not begin service until confirmed by the	161
<u>senate. Four members shall form a quorum.</u>	162
(2) The academic council shall be comprised of scholars	163
with relevant expertise and experience. Not more than one member	164
of the council may be an employee of the university. Best	165
efforts shall be made to have not fewer than three members of	166
the advisory board be from Ohio.	167
(3) Three members of the academic council shall serve	168
initial terms of two years and four members shall serve initial	169
terms of four years, which the members shall determine at their	170
first meeting, and select replacements for vacant seats.	171
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(E)(1) The academic council established under division (D)	172
of this section shall conduct a nationwide search for candidates	173
for the director of the center and shall strictly adhere to all	174
relevant state and federal laws. The academic council shall	175
submit to the president of the university a list of finalists	176
from which the president shall select and appoint a director,	177
subject to approval by the board of trustees. Future directors	178
shall be chosen in the same manner.	179
(2) The director shall have the protection of tenure or	180
tenure eligibility. The director shall consult with the dean of	181
the college of arts and sciences; however, the director shall_	182
report directly to the provost or the president of the	183
<u>university.</u>	184
(3) The director shall have the sole and exclusive	185
authority to manage the recruitment and hiring process and to	186
extend offers for employment for all faculty and staff of the	187
center, and to terminate employment of all staff. The director	188

shall oversee, develop, and approve the center's curriculum. The	189
center shall be granted the authority to offer courses and	190
develop certificate, minor, and major programs as well as	191
graduate programs, and offer degrees.	192
(F) The director of the center shall submit an annual	193
report to the board of trustees of the university and the	194
general assembly in accordance with section 101.68 of the	195
Revised Code. The report shall provide a full account of the	196
center's achievements, opportunities, challenges, and obstacles	197
in the development of this academic unit.	198
Sec. 3344.07. (A)(1) The Cleveland state university center	199
for civics, culture, and society is established as an	200
independent academic unit within Cleveland state university,	201
physically located in the Levin college of public affairs and	202
education. The center shall conduct teaching and research in the	203
historical ideas, traditions, and texts that have shaped the	204
American constitutional order and society.	205
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(2) The center shall establish bylaws requiring the center	206
to do all of the following:	207
(a) Educate students by means of free, open, and rigorous	208
intellectual inquiry to seek the truth;	209
(b) Affirm its duty to equip students with the skills,	210
habits, and dispositions of mind they need to reach their own	211
informed conclusions on matters of social and political	212
importance;	213
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(c) Affirm the value of intellectual diversity in higher	214
education and aspire to enhance the intellectual diversity of	215
the university;	216
(d) Affirm a commitment to create a community dedicated to	217

an ethic of civil and free inquiry, which respects the	218
intellectual freedom of each member, supports individual	219
capacities for growth, and welcomes the differences of opinion	220
that shall naturally exist in a public university community.	221
The requirements prescribed under divisions (A)(2)(a) to	222
(d) of this section shall take priority over any other bylaws	223
adopted by the center.	224
(3) The board of trustees of the university may name the	225
center in accordance with the philanthropic naming policies and	226
practices of the university.	227
(B) The center shall be an independent academic unit	228
physically located at the college of public affairs and	229
education with the authority to house tenure-track faculty who	230
hold their appointments within the center. Faculty appointed to	231
the center shall not be required, but may, hold joint	232
appointments within any other division of the university. Not	233
fewer than ten tenure-track faculty positions shall be allotted	234
to teach under the center. No faculty outside of the center	235
shall have the authority to block faculty hires into the center.	236
(C)(1) The center shall offer instruction in all of the	237
following:	238
(a) The books and major debates which form the	239
intellectual foundation of free societies, especially that of	240
the United States;	241
(b) The principles, ideals, and institutions of the	242
American constitutional order;	243
(c) The foundations of responsible leadership and informed	244
<u>citizenship.</u>	245

(2) The center also shall focus on both of the following:	246
(a) Offering university-wide programming related to the	247
values of free speech and civil discourse;	248
(b) Expanding the intellectual diversity of the	249
university's academic community.	250
(D)(1) Not later than December 31, 2023, the board of	251
trustees of the university shall appoint, with the advice and	252
consent of the senate, a seven-member center academic council.	253
An initial member shall not begin service until confirmed by the	254
<u>senate. Four members shall form a quorum.</u>	255
(2) The academic council shall be comprised of scholars	256
with relevant expertise and experience. Not more than one member	257
of the council may be an employee of the university. Best	258
efforts shall be made to have not fewer than three members of	259
the advisory board be from Ohio.	260
(3) Three members of the academic council shall serve	261
initial terms of two years and four members shall serve initial	262
terms of four years, which the members shall determine at their	263
first meeting, and select replacements for vacant seats.	264
(E)(1) The academic council established under division (D)	265
of this section shall conduct a nationwide search for candidates	266
for the director of the center and shall strictly adhere to all	267
relevant state and federal laws. The academic council shall	268
submit to the president of the university a list of finalists	269
from which the president shall select and appoint a director,	270
subject to approval by the board of trustees. Future directors	271
shall be chosen in the same manner.	272
(2) The director shall have the protection of tenure or	273
tenure eligibility. The director shall consult with the dean of	274

the college of public affairs and education; however, the	275
director shall report directly to the provost or the president	276
of the university.	277
(2) The director shall have the cole and evaluative	278
(3) The director shall have the sole and exclusive	
authority to manage the recruitment and hiring process and to	279
extend offers for employment for all faculty and staff of the	280
center, and to terminate employment of all staff. The director	281
shall oversee, develop, and approve the center's curriculum. The	282
center shall be granted the authority to offer courses and	283
develop certificate, minor, and major programs as well as	284
graduate programs, and offer degrees.	285
(F) The director of the center shall submit an annual	286
report to the board of trustees of the university and the	287
general assembly in accordance with section 101.68 of the	288
Revised Code. The report shall provide a full account of the	289
center's achievements, opportunities, challenges, and obstacles	290
in the development of this academic unit.	291
Sec. 3361.06. (A)(1) The university of Cincinnati center	292
for civics, culture, and society is established as an	293
independent academic unit within the university of Cincinnati,	294
physically located in the college of arts and sciences. The	295
center shall conduct teaching and research in the historical	296
ideas, traditions, and texts that have shaped the American	297
constitutional order and society.	298
(2) The center shall establish bylaws requiring the center	299
to do all of the following:	300
(a) Educate students by means of free, open, and rigorous	301
intellectual inquiry to seek the truth;	302
(b) Affirm its duty to equip students with the skills,	303

habits, and dispositions of mind they need to reach their own	304
informed conclusions on matters of social and political	305
<pre>importance;</pre>	306
(c) Affirm the value of intellectual diversity in higher	307
education and aspire to enhance the intellectual diversity of	308
the university;	309
(d) Affirm a commitment to create a community dedicated to	310
an ethic of civil and free inquiry, which respects the	311
intellectual freedom of each member, supports individual	312
capacities for growth, and welcomes the differences of opinion	313
that shall naturally exist in a public university community.	314
The requirements prescribed under divisions (A)(2)(a) to	315
(d) of this section shall take priority over any other bylaws	316
adopted by the center.	317
(3) The board of trustees of the university may name the	318
center in accordance with the philanthropic naming policies and	319
practices of the university.	320
(B) The center shall be an independent academic unit	321
physically located at the college of arts and sciences with the	322
authority to house tenure-track faculty who hold their	323
appointments within the center. Faculty appointed to the center	324
shall not be required, but may, hold joint appointments within	325
any other division of the university. Not fewer than ten tenure-	326
track faculty positions shall be allotted to teach under the	327
center. No faculty outside of the center shall have the	328
authority to block faculty hires into the center.	329
(C)(1) The center shall offer instruction in all of the	330
following:	331
(a) The books and major debates which form the	332

intellectual foundation of free societies, especially that of	333
the United States;	334
(b) The principles, ideals, and institutions of the	335
American constitutional order;	336
(c) The foundations of responsible leadership and informed	337
<u>citizenship.</u>	338
(2) The center also shall focus on both of the following:	339
(a) Offering university-wide programming related to the	340
values of free speech and civil discourse;	341
(b) Expanding the intellectual diversity of the	342
university's academic community.	343
(D)(1) Not later than December 31, 2023, the board of	344
trustees of the university shall appoint, with the advice and	345
consent of the senate, a seven-member center academic council.	346
An initial member shall not begin service until confirmed by the	347
<u>senate. Four members shall form a quorum.</u>	348
(2) The academic council shall be comprised of scholars	349
with relevant expertise and experience. Not more than one member	350
of the council may be an employee of the university. Best	351
efforts shall be made to have not fewer than three members of	352
the advisory board be from Ohio.	353
(3) Three members of the academic council shall serve	354
initial terms of two years and four members shall serve initial	355
terms of four years, which the members shall determine at their	356
first meeting, and select replacements for vacant seats.	357
(E)(1) The academic council established under division (D)	358
of this section shall conduct a nationwide search for candidates	359
for the director of the center and shall strictly adhere to all	360

relevant state and federal laws. The academic council shall	361		
submit to the president of the university a list of finalists	362		
from which the president shall select and appoint a director,	363		
subject to approval by the board of trustees. Future directors			
shall be chosen in the same manner.	365		
(2) The director shall have the protection of tenure or	366		
tenure eligibility. The director shall consult with the dean of	367		
the college of arts and sciences; however, the director shall	368		
report directly to the provost or the president of the	369		
university.	370		
(3) The director shall have the sole and exclusive	371		
authority to manage the recruitment and hiring process and to	372		
extend offers for employment for all faculty and staff of the	373		
center, and to terminate employment of all staff. The director	374		
shall oversee, develop, and approve the center's curriculum. The	375		
center shall be granted the authority to offer courses and	376		
develop certificate, minor, and major programs as well as	377		
graduate programs, and offer degrees.	378		
(F) The director of the center shall submit an annual	379		
report to the board of trustees of the university and the	380		
general assembly in accordance with section 101.68 of the	381		
Revised Code. The report shall provide a full account of the	382		
center's achievements, opportunities, challenges, and obstacles	383		
in the development of this academic unit.	384		
Sec. 3364.07. (A) The institute of American constitutional	385		
thought and leadership is established for the purpose of	386		
creating and disseminating knowledge about American	387		
constitutional thought and to form future leaders of the legal	388		
profession through research, scholarship, teaching,	389		
collaboration, and mentorship. The institute shall be an	390		

independent academic unit within the university of Toledo,	391
physically located at the college of law. The university shall	392
require the college of law to provide adequate administrative	393
space for the institute.	394
(B) The institute shall pursue all of the following goals:	395
(1) To enrich the curriculum in American constitutional	396
studies, including the core texts and great debates of western	397
civilization;	398
(2) To educate university students in the principles,	399
ideals, and institutions of the American and Ohio constitutional	400
<u>order;</u>	401
(3) To educate university students in the foundations of	402
responsible leadership and informed citizenship and to cultivate	403
the next generation of leaders in the legal profession;	404
(4) To offer university-wide programming related to the	405
values of open inquiry and civil discourse;	406
(5) To expand the intellectual diversity of the	407
university's academic community and to create a rich forum for	408
the development of ideas across the political and ideological	409
<pre>spectrum;</pre>	410
(6) To support faculty and graduate student scholarship	411
that advances understanding of American constitutional thought	412
and institutions;	413
(7) To promote scholarly collaboration within the	414
university and beyond;	415
(8) To host lectures, debates, and symposia, and sponsor	416
visiting scholars, jurists, and teachers.	417

(C) The institute shall adhere to the following policies:	418		
(1) The institute shall educate students by means of free,	419		
open, and rigorous intellectual inquiry to seek the truth.	420		
(2) The institute shall equip students with the skills,	421		
habits, and dispositions of mind they need to reach their own	422		
informed conclusions on matters of legal, social, and political	423		
importance.	424		
(3) The institute shall value intellectual diversity in	425		
higher education, including in faculty recruitment, hiring, and	426		
appointment, and aspire to enhance the intellectual diversity of	427		
academic life at the university.	428		
(4) The institute shall create a community dedicated to an	429		
ethic of civil and free inquiry, which respects the intellectual	430		
freedom of each member, supports individual capacities for			
growth, and welcomes the differences of opinion that naturally	432		
occur in a public university community.	433		
(D)(1) Not later than sixty days after the effective date	434		
of this section, the talent, compensation, and governance	435		
committee of the board of trustees of the university, if such a	436		
committee exists, shall appoint, with the advice and consent of	437		
the senate, a seven-member institute academic council. If no	438		
such committee exists, the board of trustees shall appoint	439		
members under this division. An initial member shall not begin	440		
service until confirmed by the senate. Four members shall form a	441		
<u>quorum.</u>	442		
(2) The academic council shall be comprised of scholars	443		
with relevant expertise and experience. Not more than one member	444		
of the council may be an employee of the university. Best	445		
efforts shall be made to have not fewer than three members of			

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(3) Three members of the academic council shall serve	448		
initial terms of two years and four members shall serve initial	449		
terms of four years, which the members shall determine at their	450		
first meeting, and select replacements for vacant seats.	451		
(4) To fill a vacancy for the institute director after the	452		
initial director, following a national search, the academic	453		
council shall transmit to the president a list of finalists from	454		
which the president shall select a director, subject to the	455		
approval of the talent, compensation, and governance committee	456		
of the board of trustees.	457		
(E)(1) The institute shall be led by a director who shall	458		
report directly to the president and provost of the university	459		
and consult with the dean of the college of law. The president	460		
of the university shall appoint an initial director not later			
than thirty days after the effective date of this section. The	462		
director shall be an expert of the western tradition, the	463		
American founding, and American constitutional thought, and	464		
shall have shown a commitment to the purposes, goals, and	465		
policies of the institute. The director's term shall be for five	466		
years and shall be renewable.	467		
(2) The director shall have the protection of tenure or	468		
tenure eligibility. Any existing tenure with the university held	469		
by a director shall be maintained with the university.	470		
(F) The institute shall be an independent academic unit of	471		
the university with the authority to house tenure-track faculty	472		
who hold their appointments within the institute. Not fewer than	473		
five tenure-track faculty positions shall be allotted to the	474		
institute. Faculty appointed within the institute shall not be	475		

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faculty from outside the institute shall have the authority to 4			
faculty from outside the institute shall have the authority to			
block faculty hires into the institute. 4	79		
(C) (1) The director chall have the cole and evolution (	80		
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staff, and to terminate employment of all staff. The director 4	83		
shall oversee, develop, and approve the institute's curriculum. 4	84		
The institute shall be granted the authority to offer courses 4	85		
and develop certificate, minor, major, and graduate programs, 4	86		
and offer degrees. 4	87		
(2) Employment contracts offered under division (G)(1) of 4	88		
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the same rank and compensation, in the event the institute is 4	91		
discontinued. 4	92		
(H) The director of the institute shall submit an annual 4	93		
report to the board of trustees of the university and the 4	94		
general assembly in accordance with section 101.68 of the 4	95		
Revised Code. The report shall provide a full account of the 4	96		
institute's achievements, opportunities, challenges, and 4	97		
obstacles in the development of this academic unit. 4	98		
(I) The board of trustees of the university may change the 4	99		
	00		
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naming policies and plactices of the university.	101		
Section 2. All items in this act are hereby appropriated 5	02		
as designated out of any moneys in the state treasury to the 5	03		
credit of the designated fund. For all operating appropriations 5	04		

made in this act, those in the first column are for fiscal year
2024 and those in the second column are for fiscal year 2025.
The operating appropriations made in this act are in addition to
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any other operating appropriations made for these fiscal years.
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Section 3.

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A			BOR DEPARTMENT O	F HIGHER	EDUCATION		
В	Gener	cal Revenu	ie Fund				
С	GRF	235533	Program and Project	Support	\$12,000,000	\$12,000,000	
D	TOTAI	GRF Gene	eral Revenue Fund		\$12,000,000	\$12,000,000	
Ε	TOTAI	L ALL BUDO	GET FUND GROUPS		\$12,000,000	\$12,000,000	

#### PROGRAM AND PROJECT SUPPORT

Of the foregoing appropriation item 235533, Program and512Project Support, \$5,000,000 in each fiscal year shall be513distributed to The Ohio State University to support the Salmon514P. Chase Center for Civics, Culture, and Society established515under section 3335.39 of the Revised Code.516

Of the foregoing appropriation item 235533, Program and517Project Support, \$2,000,000 in each fiscal year shall be518distributed to Miami University to support the center for519civics, culture, and society established under section 3339.06520of the Revised Code.521

Of the foregoing appropriation item 235533, Program and 522

Project Support, \$2,000,000 in each fiscal year shall be523distributed to Cleveland State University to support the center524for civics, culture, and society established under section5253344.07 of the Revised Code.526

Of the foregoing appropriation item 235533, Program and527Project Support, \$2,000,000 in each fiscal year shall be528distributed to the University of Cincinnati to support the529center for civics, culture, and society established under530section 3361.06 of the Revised Code.531

Of the foregoing appropriation item 235533, Program and532Project Support, \$1,000,000 in each fiscal year shall be533distributed to the University of Toledo to support the Institute534of American Constitutional Thought and Leadership established535under section 3364.07 of the Revised Code.536

Section 4. Within the limits set forth in this act, the 537 Director of Budget and Management shall establish accounts 538 indicating the source and amount of funds for each appropriation 539 made in this act, and shall determine the manner in which 540 appropriation accounts shall be maintained. Expenditures from 541 operating appropriations contained in this act shall be 542 accounted for as though made in, and are subject to all 543 applicable provisions of, the main operating appropriations act 544 of the 135th General Assembly. 545